

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOUALA 00230 161134Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-13 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

AID-20 RSR-01 /162 W

----- 095068

R 160940Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL DOUALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0541

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOUALA 0230

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ELAB, EK, NI

SUBJECT: GOEG RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE

REF: DOUALA 188

1. NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR WELLINGTON BASSEY RETURNED TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA ON 7 JULY, JUST IN TIME TO TAKE PART IN THE OPENING OF THE PUNT CONGRESS AT BATA THE FOLLOWING DAY. ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS AT THE CONGRESS, PRESIDENT MACIAS INTERRUPTED HIS OPENING ADDRESS IN ORDER TO REQUEST ONE OF HIS ASSISTANTS TO TRANSLATE WHAT HE WAS GOING TO SAY INTO ENGLISH FOR THE BENEFIT OF AMBASSADOR BASSEY (WHO SPEAKS NO SPANISH). PRESIDENT MACIAS THEREUPON HARANGUED THE NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR FOR A FEW MINUTES ABOUT "MISINFORMATION" CIRCULATED ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF NIGERIANS IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ADDING THAT MANY OF E.G'S PROBLEMS ARE DUE TO THE "ECONOMIC SABOTAGE" OF NGERIAN RESIDENTS.

2. IN A CONVERSATION ON JULY 11 WITH AMBASSADOR BASSEY  
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HE REVEALED TO CONSUL CLARKE THAT HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF ONLY

ONE STEP FROM BEING DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA. HE PROVIDED SOME MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE ENAHORO VISIT (SEE REFTTEL) AND INDICATED THAT THE VISIT WAS MUCH MORE ACRIMONIOUS THAN HAD BEEN REPORTED FROM OTHER SOURCES. AT ONE POINT DURING ENAHORO'S STAY PRESIDENT MACIAS TOLD HIM THAT NEWS OF MIS-TREATMENT OF NIGERIANS WAS UNFOUNDED AND INDICATED THAT IT WAS AN INVENTION OF THE NIGERIAN EMBASSY ON THE ISLAND. MACIAS ADDED THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO ASK FOR THE RECALL OF ALL THE NIGERIAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL. ENAHORO THEN WENT ON HIS OWN INSPECTION TOUR WHICH RESULTED IN THE FREEING OF MANY NIGERIAN PRISONERS AND THE CANCELLATION OF THE EXIT VISAS FOR THE WORKERS COLLECTED IN CALABAR. BASSEY CONFIRMED THAT NO WORKERS ARE TO BE ISSUED EXIT PERMITS TO COME TO THE ISLAND THIS YEAR AND STATED THAT THERE ARE ONLY 500 (NOT 2500 AS REPORTED EARLIER) NIGERIAN CONTRACT WORKERS LEFT ON THE ISLAND. CLARKE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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